CLAIMS

1. A computer administration system for accessing computer systems in a computer network, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface data signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface data signals containing user input information, the computer administration system comprising:

a plurality of system communications devices, each system communications device being adapted to be coupled to a corresponding computer system and operable in a transmit mode to receive the operator interface data signals from the corresponding computer system and to generate corresponding operator interface transmission signals, and operable in a receive mode to receive operator interface transmission signals and to generate corresponding operator interface data signals that are applied to the corresponding computer system; and

a remote access device, comprising,

a remote communications device operable to select a system communications device and operable during the transmit mode to receive the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and to generate corresponding operator interface data signals, and operable during the receive mode to receive operator interface data signals and generate corresponding operator interface transmission signals that are applied to the selected system communications device; and

an operator interface device coupled to the remote communications device and adapted to accept user input and provide user output, the operator interface device operable to generate user output in response to the operator interface data signals from the remote communications device, and operable in response to user input to apply corresponding operator interface data signals to the remote communications device.

2. The computer administration system of claim 1 wherein the operator interface data signals comprise keyboard, mouse, and video signals.

3. The computer administration system of claim 1 wherein the remote communications device receives the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and applies the operator interface transmission signals to the selected system communications device via a wireless communications link.

4. The computer administration system of claim 1 wherein the remote communications device further operates to identify the system communications devices proximate the remote access device and the operator interface device allows a desired identified system communications device to be selected.

5. The computer administration system of claim 4 wherein the user output generated by the operator interface device comprises a list of system communications devices and the operator interface device comprises a plurality of buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

6. The computer administration system of claim 5 wherein the buttons comprise a manual connect, previous, next, and select current buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

7. The computer administration system of claim 5 wherein the operator interface device further comprises a touch screen and the plurality of buttons are displayed on the touch screen display.

8. The computer administration system of 1 wherein the operator interface signals are encoded for transmission by the transmitting system communications device or remote communications device and are decoded by the receiving system communications device or remote communications device.

9. The computer administration system of claim 3 wherein each wireless communications link comprises a communications link communicating via the Bluetooth protocol.

10. A remote administration device for accessing computer systems in a computer network, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface signals containing user input information, the remote administration device comprising:

a remote communications device being operable to select a computer system and to receive from the selected computer system via a wireless communications link operator interface signals containing user output information, and to transmit to the selected computer system via the wireless communications link operator interface signals that supply user input information to the computer system; and

an operator interface device coupled to the remote communications device and operable to generate user output in response to the operator interface signals received by the remote communications device, and operable in response to user input to apply corresponding operator interface signals to the remote communications device for transmission to the computer system.

11. The remote administration device of claim 10 wherein the operator interface signals comprise keyboard, mouse, and video signals.

12. The remote administration device of claim 10 wherein the remote communications device selects a computer system by identifying computer systems proximate the remote communications device and the operator interface device allows a desired identified computer system to be selected.

13. The remote administration device of claim 12 wherein the user output generated by the operator interface device comprises a list of computer systems and the

operator interface device comprises a plurality of buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

14. The remote administration device of claim 13 wherein the buttons comprise a manual connect, previous, next, and select current buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

15. The remote administration device of claim 13 wherein the operator interface device further comprises a touch screen and the plurality of buttons are displayed on the touch screen display.

16. A computer administration system for accessing computer systems in a computer network, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface data signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface data signals containing user input information, and each computer system including a local operator interface device, the computer administration system comprising:

a plurality of system communications devices, each system communications device being adapted to be coupled to a corresponding computer system, and

operable in a local-user mode to apply the operator interface data signals from the computer system to the local operator interface device to allow the computer system to be controlled through the local operator interface device, and

operable in an override mode to inhibit control of the computer system through the local operator interface device and to operate in a transmit submode to receive the operator interface data signals from the corresponding computer system and to generate corresponding operator interface transmission signals, and to operate in a receive submode to receive operator interface transmission signals and to generate corresponding operator interface data signals that are applied to the corresponding computer system; and

a remote access device, comprising,

a remote communications device operable to select a system communications device and operable during the transmit submode to receive the operator

interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and to generate corresponding operator interface data signals, and operable during the receive submode to receive operator interface data signals and generate corresponding operator interface transmission signals that are applied to the selected system communications device; and

an operator interface device coupled to the remote communications device and adapted to accept user input and provide user output, the operator interface device operable to generate user output in response to the operator interface data signals from the remote communications device, and operable in response to user input to apply corresponding operator interface data signals to the remote communications device.

17. The computer administration system of claim 16 wherein the operator interface data signals comprise keyboard, mouse, and video signals.

18. The computer administration system of claim 16 wherein the remote communications device receives the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and applies the operator interface transmission signals to the selected system communications device via a wireless communications link.

19. The computer administration system of claim 18 wherein the remote communications device further operates to identify the system communications devices proximate the remote access device and the operator interface device allows a desired identified system communications device to be selected.

20. The computer administration system of claim 19 wherein the user output generated by the operator interface device comprises a list of system communications devices and the operator interface device comprises a plurality of buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

21. The computer administration system of claim 20 wherein the buttons comprise a manual connect, previous, next, and select current buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

22. The computer administration system of claim 20 wherein the operator interface device further comprises a touch screen and the plurality of buttons are displayed on the touch screen display.

23. The computer administration system of 18 wherein the operator interface signals are encoded for transmission by the transmitting system communications device or remote communications device and are decoded by the receiving system communications device or remote communications device.

24. The computer administration system of claim 18 wherein each wireless communications link comprises a communications link communicating via the Bluetooth protocol.

25. A computer administration system for accessing computer systems in a computer network, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface data signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface data signals containing user input information, the computer administration system comprising a plurality of system communications devices, each system communications device being adapted to be coupled to a corresponding computer system; and a remote access device coupled to the system communications devices and including a remote communications device and an operator interface device.

26. The computer administration system of claim 25 wherein the operator interface data signals comprise keyboard, mouse, and video signals.

27. The computer administration system of claim 25 wherein the remote access device is coupled to the system communications devices via respective wireless links.

28. The computer administration system of claim 25 wherein the operator interface device comprises a plurality of buttons.

29. The computer administration system of claim 25 wherein the operator interface device comprises a touch screen and a plurality of buttons are displayed on the touch screen display.

30. A computer administration system for accessing computer systems in a computer network, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface data signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface data signals containing user input information, the computer administration system comprising:

a plurality of system communications means that is each adapted to be coupled to a respective computer system for receiving the operator interface data signals from the corresponding computer system and generating corresponding operator interface transmission signals in a transmit mode, and for receiving operator interface transmission signals and generating corresponding operator interface data signals that are applied to the corresponding computer system in a receive mode; and

a remote access means for remotely controlling respective computer systems, the remote access means comprising,

a remote communications means for selecting a system communications device, and for receiving the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and generating corresponding operator interface data signals during the transmit mode, and for receiving operator interface data signals and generating corresponding operator interface transmission signals that are applied to the selected system communications means during the receive mode; and

an operator interface means for generating user output in response to the operator interface data signals from the remote communications means, and for applying operator interface data signals to the remote communications means in response to corresponding user input.

31. The computer administration system of claim 30 wherein the operator interface data signals comprise keyboard, mouse, and video signals.

32. The computer administration system of claim 30 wherein the remote communications means receives the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications means and applies the operator interface transmission signals to the selected system communications means via a wireless communications link.

33. The computer administration system of claim 32 wherein the remote communications means further includes means for identifying the system communications means proximate the remote access means and the operator interface means allows a desired identified system communications means to be selected.

34. The computer administration system of claim 4 wherein the user output generated by the operator interface means comprises a list of system communications devices and the operator interface means comprises a plurality user input means for allowing the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

35. The computer administration system of 32 wherein the operator interface signals are encoded for transmission by the transmitting system or remote communications means and are decoded by the receiving system or remote communications means.

36. The computer administration system of claim 32 wherein each wireless communications link comprises a communications link communicating via the Bluetooth protocol.

37. A computer network, comprising:

a plurality of computer systems, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface data signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface data signals containing user input information;

a plurality of system communications devices, each system communications device coupled to a corresponding computer system and operable in a transmit mode to receive the operator interface data signals from the corresponding computer system and to generate corresponding operator interface transmission signals, and operable in a receive mode to receive operator interface transmission signals and to generate corresponding operator interface data signals that are applied to the corresponding computer system; and

a remote access device, comprising,

a remote communications device operable to select a system communications device and operable during the transmit mode to receive the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and to generate corresponding operator interface data signals, and operable during the receive mode to receive operator interface data signals and generate corresponding operator interface transmission signals that are applied to the selected system communications device; and

an operator interface device coupled to the remote communications device and adapted to accept user input and provide user output, the operator interface device operable to generate user output in response to the operator interface data signals from the remote communications device, and operable in response to user input to apply corresponding operator interface data signals to the remote communications device.

38. The computer administration system of claim 37 wherein at least some of the computer systems comprise servers.

39. The computer administration system of claim 37 wherein at least some of the computer systems comprise workstations.

40. The computer administration system of claim 37 wherein the operator interface data signals comprise keyboard, video, and visual display signals.

41. The computer administration system of claim 37 wherein at least some of the computer systems comprise local operator interface devices and each corresponding system communications device is operable in a pass-through mode to couple the operator interface data signals between the local operator interface device and the computer system to allow the local operator interface device to control the computer system, and is operable in an override mode to operate in the transmit and receive modes to allow the remote access device to control the computer system.

42. The computer administration system of claim 37 wherein the remote communications device receives the operator interface transmission signals from the selected system communications device and applies the operator interface transmission signals to the selected system communications device via a wireless communications link.

43. The computer administration system of claim 37 wherein the remote communications device further operates to identify the system communications devices proximate the remote access device and the operator interface device allows a desired identified system communications device to be selected.

44. The computer administration system of claim 43 wherein the user output generated by the operator interface device comprises a list of system communications devices and the operator interface device comprises a plurality of buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

45. The computer administration system of claim 44 wherein the buttons comprise a manual connect, previous, next, and select current buttons that allow the desired identified system communications device to be selected.

46. The computer administration system of claim 44 wherein the operator interface device further comprises a touch screen and the plurality of buttons are displayed on the touch screen display.

47. The computer administration system of 37 wherein the operator interface signals are encoded for transmission by the transmitting system communications device or remote communications device and are decoded by the receiving system communications device or remote communications device.

48. The computer administration system of claim 42 wherein each wireless communications link comprises a communications link communicating via the Bluetooth protocol.

49. A method of accessing computer systems in a computer network, each computer system being adapted to provide operator interface signals containing user output information and being adapted to receive operator interface signals containing user input information, the method comprising:

encoding the operator interface signals from each computer system;

transmitting the encoded operator interface signals via respective wireless links;

selecting one of the computer systems;

receiving the transmitted encoded operator interface signals from the selected computer system;

decoding the received operator interface signals;

displaying user information at a location remote from the computer system in response to the decoded operator interface signals;

receiving operator input at the remote location and generating corresponding operator interface signals responsive to the operator input;

encoding the generated operator interface signals; and

transmitting the encoded operator interface signals to the selected computer system via a wireless protocol.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein the operator interface signals comprise keyboard, video, and mouse signals.

51. The method of claim 49 wherein selecting one of the computer systems comprises selecting one of the computer systems that is proximate the remote location.